

Philosophy 4, Introduction to Ethics
Summer B, 2009
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Paper Prompt #1

What important role did Socrates see himself as playing in Athenian society? And why did this get him into trouble? (hint: talk about Socrates' investigations into the prophecy regarding his wisdom from the Oracle at Delphi, and also the conclusions he drew from these investigations)

We see an example of Socrates' search for wisdom when he asks Euthyphro, a self-proclaimed expert on piety, what piety is. Euthyphro gives three attempts at definition. **State and explain each, as well as Socrates' responses to each, paying particular attention to the last one.**

Suggested Outline:

One paragraph of introduction. This is short and to the point, simply a few sentences telling the reader what the focus and intent of the paper is.

Section 1. 1-1.5 pages: Answer the first question.

Socrates saw himself as.....(include references to the text which back up your version of how Socrates saw his role.)

This role Socrates saw himself playing got him into trouble because...

Section 2. 1.5-2 pages: Answer the second question.

First explain what piety is and why Socrates is asking for a definition...

Next, briefly present and explain each to the first two of Euthyphro's attempts at a definition of piety, as well as Socrates' responses.

Finally spend at least a page on the Euthyphro dilemma, presenting all aspects of it.

Useful tips on back!!!

Useful tips:

1. Write early and revise!!!!
2. Organize, organize, organize.
3. Write clear, short, to the point sentences. Don't worry about bridge paragraphs or niceties, stick to the point!
4. Are all the relevant elements of an explanation/argument present?
5. Are they all explained adequately?
6. Are all the questions on the prompt answered?
7. Do not copy explanations from my notes! The purpose is to **show you understood the material**, you do that by putting it in your own words!
8. Is the paper **at minimum**, a **full** 3 pages?
9. Come to office hours or email questions!!!!!!
10. For direct quotes from the text just indicate what dialogue and give the line #. Like this (Apology 42e).